



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 01 Sep 2003

To: Mr. Jeff Nelson	From: Steve Alvo
Application/Control Number: 08/848,434	Art Unit: 1731
Fax No.: 703-816-4100	Phone No.: 703-308-2048
Voice No.:	Return Fax No.: 703-872-9310
Re: Page 3 09/848,434	CC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> For Comment <input type="checkbox"/> For Reply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Per Your Request	

Comments:

Unofficial

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 09 2003

Number of pages __ including this page

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This facsimile transmission is an Official U.S. Government document which may contain information which is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for use of the recipient named above. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If this document is received in error, you are requested to immediately notify the sender at the above indicated telephone number and return the entire document in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application/Control Number:
09/848,434
Art Unit: 1731

Page 3

section. The CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION 2,243,733 teaches using impervious protrusions 53, 122, 40 (Figure 3) and 84, Figures 16A and 16B, which extend into the vessel at locations offset from the screens in portions of the vessel that are hollow. The CANADIAN PATENT also teaches that these protrusions typically extend 6 inches into the vessel (page 2, line 14) or Figure 20 shows the protrusions to extend 12 inches into the vessel. If necessary, it would have been obvious to the artisan that the step-out protrusions of CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION 2,243,733 would be 6 inches as such is typical in the art. The CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION 2,243,733 teaches such a design allows for "column relief", page 7, lines 18-23. If necessary, RICH teaches using a screening surface having a space from the vessel surface of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches (column 3, lines 54-57). It would have been obvious to structure the protrusions of the CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION 2,243,733 (Figures 3 and 16 A and B) to the depth taught by RICH so they correspond to the depth of the screens (43) in the CANADIAN PATENT. See CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION 2,243,733, Figure 19 for triangular shaped protrusions. See Figures 12 and 13 for a perimeter defined by the protrusions of a hollow region. See Figure 13 for the screen assembly vertically offset from protrusion 82.

The argument that the protrusions of the CANADIAN PATENT is not convincing as the drawings show 53, 122, 40 (Fig. 3) and 84, Figures 16A, 16B, Figure 13 as solid lines, which would indicate that the protrusions are solid. See also CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION 2,243,733, page 9, lines 8-10 where the conical transition sections may be continuous. See also page 9, line 1 for teaching other geometries.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTE

SEP 09 2003

Unofficial